



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,813	11/14/2003	Robert J. Sweeney	20030228.ORI	2579
23595	7590	12/19/2005	EXAMINER	
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A. 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH SUITE 820 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			GREENE, DANA D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3762	

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/713,813	Applicant(s) SWEENEY, ROBERT J.	
	Examiner Dana D. Greene	Art Unit 3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haller et al. (US 6,804,558 B2, hereinafter "Haller"). Haller is considered to disclose:

a method providing an external programmer for transmitting and receiving data signals and for visually displaying information to a person (see col. 11, ln. 36-52, Haller).

The disclosed external programming unit is considered to anticipate the claimed external programmer because both devices are capable of providing signals to the implantable medical device through a programming head, which transmits, and receiving radio-frequency messages to and from the implant;

providing an implantable medical device having a microprocessor-based controller with a memory for storing text messages and a telemetry link for allowing duplex communication with said external programmer (see col. 11, ln. 36-52, Haller).

The disclosed microprocessor-based architecture is considered to anticipate the claimed invention because both provide a series of encoded signals to the implantable medical device, typically through a programming head, which transmits, or telemeters

radio-frequency (RF) encoded signals to the medical device. Further, controlling the operation of the module and the exchange of data is permitted;

transmitting at least one text message from the external programmer to the implantable medical device over the telemetry link along with a text message initiation date and a text message termination date (see col. 7, ln. 44 and col. 27, ln. 8-13, Haller). The disclosed transmission of short text messages is considered to anticipate the claimed transmission of at least one text message because both methods are done employing telemetry communication principles;

storing the at least one text message in said memory (see col. 27, ln. 8-15, Haller). The disclosed use of the message service is considered to anticipate the claimed storing of the text message because both receive and keep short messages for subsequent relay to an external programmer/monitor for informing a clinician of certain events so that timely action can be taken;

subsequently periodically interrogating the memory with said external programmer and reading out the at least one text messages over the telemetry link to the external programmer for visual display when the time of said interrogation falls between the initiation date and the termination date (see col. 29, ln. 60-66, Haller). The disclosed interrogation of the communication module is considered to anticipate the claimed interrogation of the memory because both methods work to transmit the messages over the telemetry link according to a predetermined schedule stored in the memory.

With reference to claims 6, 7, and 9, Haller is considered to disclose a method including the step of updating the status of a given text message in the implantable medical device following the performance of a responsive action by a clinician to said text message presented on the visual display (see col. 37, ln. 40-60, Haller). The disclosed method of updating patient operating parameters is considered to anticipate the claimed method of updating the status of a given text message because both change the status of the message displayed in response to feedback elicited from a physician or clinician.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 – 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haller in view of Duffy et al. (US 2002/0165898 A1, hereinafter “Duffy”). Haller is considered to disclose the claimed invention as discussed above, under the anticipatory rejection, except for the claimed priority flag. However, Duffy is considered to disclose the claimed priority flag (see col. 8, para. 0047, Duffy). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Haller with the priority flag of Duffy for the purpose of displaying the text message in a manner dictated by the priority code. In this connection, Duffy provides visual alerts to draw attention to

messages and tasks that are sent with a priority flag to designate the manner in which the text message is displayed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dana D. Greene whose telephone number is (571) 272-7138. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dana D. Greene


George Manuel
Primary Examiner